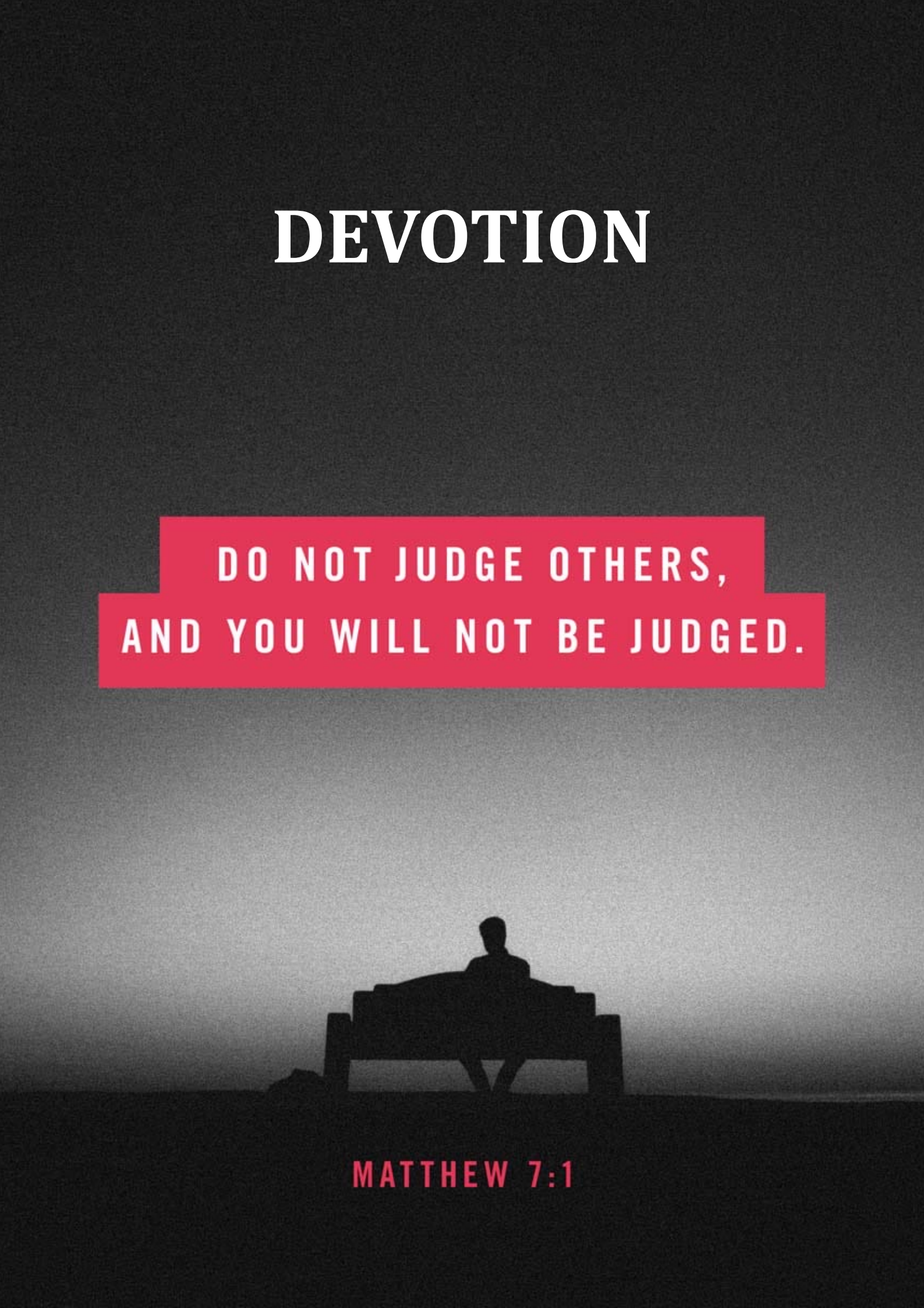
DEVOTION



Or You Will Be Judged

Matthew 7:1-2 NIV
"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

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Jesus follows with a sober warning: *"...or you too will be judged"* (Matthew 7:1b). He expands in verse 2: *"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

This principle reflects the biblical law of **sowing and reaping** (Galatians 6:7). If we sow harshness, we will reap harshness; if we sow mercy, we will reap mercy. James reinforces this when he says, *"Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment"* (James 2:13).

The warning is both divine and practical: how we treat others will mirror back to us, both in human relationships and ultimately before God.

Application for Believers

1. **Practice self-examination** – Before pointing out the faults of others, examine your own heart (Matthew 7:3–5).
2. **Walk in humility** – Recognize that only God has the authority to judge perfectly (Romans 14:4).
3. **Extend mercy** – Remember that Jesus, the perfect Judge, extended mercy to us at the cross (John 3:17).

When we refrain from condemning others and instead walk in grace, we reflect the character of Christ, who embodies both justice and mercy.